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*On some numerical comparisons of the centripetal and centrifugal medullated nerve fibres arising in the spinal ganglia of the mammal.* H. H. DALE: Jour. of Physiol., XXV, No. 3, 1900, pp. 196-206; Plate II.

There are in the cat about 0.5 per cent. more fibres in the trunk of a spinal nerve than in the two roots combined, the excess being caused by fibres of small diameter, going probably from the gray ramus to supply the blood vessels or other tissues of the ganglion. The author does not agree with Hardesty in finding fibres arising from cells in the ganglion to end close to it; and concludes from his measurements that fibres of both ventral and dorsal roots taper slightly in size as they pass away from the cord.

*Observations on the weight and length of the central nervous system and of the legs in frogs of different sizes (rana virescens brachycephala, Cope).* H. H. DONALDSON, and D. M. SCHOEMAKER, Jour. of Comp. Neurol., X, No. 1, pp. 109-132.

The male of this species rarely exceeds 50 grammes in weight, while the female may reach 75 g. or over. The weight of the brain in the largest males is, however, less than that in females of comparable size. This is in direct opposition to the finding published by Fubini in 1881, for *rana esculenta* and *rana temporaria*. The authors have also found that the relative weight of the brain, as compared with that of the spinal cord, decreases as the frog increases in size. This fact makes it possible that more exact comparisons would be made if male frogs of any given weight were compared, not with females of the same size, but with those in the same relative position in the scale of their range of growth. A full grown male frog is probably not comparable with a female frog of the same weight.

In frogs of all sizes the sum of the lengths of the leg bones, and the proportional lengths of the several bones, are nearly constant. The weight of the leg muscles, compared with body weight, increases up to 5 g. in weight, then decreases slightly as the frog increases in size.

*A contribution to the study of the pyramidal tract in the central nervous system of man.* W. G. SPILLER: Brain, No. 88, Winter 1899, pp. 563-574.

The Marchi method was applied in a case of tumor in the internal capsule and lenticular nucleus. Besides observing the homolateral fibres running with the crossed pyramidal tract, the author describes a tract which separates itself from the pyramidal fibres to lie external to the olivary body on the side of the lesion, and on the periphery of the cord in the upper cervical region. These are interesting when compared with the antero-lateral descending fibres which degenerate in the monkey after cortical lesion.

*Spinal cord changes in cases of cerebral tumor.* F. E. BATTEN, and J. S. COLLIER: Brain, No. 88, Winter 1899, pp. 473-533.

An examination of a large number of cases of cerebral tumor has led to the conclusion that degeneration in the posterior columns, which occurs in about 65 per cent. of the cases, is of root origin, is independent of the nature or position of the tumor, and is caused by intracranial pressure, distension of the subarachnoid space of the spinal cord, with traction on the spinal roots.

*Observations on the ascending tracts in the spinal cord of the human subject.* E. E. LASLETT, and W. B. WARRINGTON: Brain, No. 88, Winter 1899, pp. 586-592.

Two human cases, one of caries with disintegration of the mid-dorsal

cord, one of injury and destruction of the cord at the 10th dorsal root, were examined by the method of Marchi. Degenerated fibres in the postero-median column end above in the nucleus gracilis. In one of the cases fibres of the 4th posterior spinal root, lying in the middle of the postero-external column, end below at the level of the 5th and 6th, and above in the nucleus cuneatus, with collaterals passing to the cells of the postero-lateral group. Some degenerated fibres cross from the anterior horn on that side through the anterior commissure—the “crossed afferent fibres” of Edinger. The dorsal cerebella tract is followed through the restiform body to the cerebellum, and the ventral cerebellar fibres, including some lying along the ventral fissure, to a position external to the inferior olive from which they pass to the superior medullary vellum. Beyond that point their course was not followed.

*On the evidence of the Golgi methods for the theory of neuron retraction.* (Abstract.) R. WEIL, and R. FRANK: Archives of Neur. and Psychopath., Vol. II, Nos. 3-4, 1899.

The authors have found, in a study of 342 preparations from 43 animals, using the Golgi method, rapid, mixed and slow, and Cox's modification, that normal material, as well as toxic, is as a rule free from varicosities when treated by the slow method, while the more rapid methods show them in corresponding richness. The results from the same material vary with the method, and constant results are not always obtained from the same material treated by the same method. The conclusion is that the varicosities are to be regarded as artifacts of the Golgi method.